



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Media Contact: Richard Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in the following 36 Nebraska counties and neighboring counties in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and South Dakota are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by flooding beginning on May 1, 2011 in the following Nebraska primary counties,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

Primary **Nebraska** counties: Boyd, Burt, Cass, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Lincoln, Nemaha, Otoe, Richardson, Sarpy, Thurston and Washington;

Neighboring **Nebraska** counties: Antelope, Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Dodge, Frontier, Gage, Hayes, Holt, Johnson, Keith, Keya Paha, Lancaster, Logan, McPherson, Pawnee, Perkins, Pierce, Rock, Saunders and Wayne;

Neighboring **Iowa** counties: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury;

Neighboring **Kansas** counties: Brown, Doniphan and Nemaha;

Neighboring **Missouri** counties: Atchison and Holt;

Neighboring **South Dakota** counties: Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Gregory, Union and Yankton.

“SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster,” Judd said.

Small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

“Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4% for businesses and 3% for private, non-profit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, non-profits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster at the request of Governor Dave Heineman.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **March 19, 2012**.

For more information, visit SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov.
SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841
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